

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A valve adapted for use with a nasogastric tube having a fluid lumen and a vent lumen, said valve comprising:

a housing including ~~therein a first end, a second end and~~ a first passageway that ~~extends therealong~~ and a second passageway that includes a relief port, said first passageway being adapted for communication with the fluid lumen of said nasogastric tube and the relief port being adapted for communication with the vent lumen of the nasogastric tube, the housing further including a first fluid introduction port and a second fluid suction port; and

a valve member disposed within the housing and movable relative thereto, the valve member defining a portion of the first passageway that includes a first opening configured for alignment and sealed fluid communication with the first fluid introduction port and the second fluid suction port, the portion of the first passageway further including a second opening having a greater relative dimension than the first opening, wherein the valve member is manipulable to establish sealed fluid communication between the first opening and either the first fluid introduction port or the second fluid suction port while maintaining continuous sealed fluid communication between the second opening and the first passageway adjacent to the second end of the housing[.];
an anti-reflux valve in the housing in fluid communication with the relief port, said anti-reflux valve being adapted to open to permit air to flow through the relief port when the first passageway and relief port are in communication with respective lumens of said nasogastric tube and suction is applied to the suction port; and

wherein said second passageway is separate from the first passageway such that said valve member is not movable to any position establishing fluid communication between said first and second passageways.

2. (Currently amended) A valve as recited in claim 1, wherein the valve member is disposed within the housing for rotation relative thereto to establish sealed fluid

communication between the first opening and either the ~~first~~ fluid introduction port or the ~~second~~ port.

3. (Currently amended) A valve as recited in claim 1, wherein the valve member is manipulable to a position such that the first opening is not aligned with the ~~first~~ fluid introduction port or the ~~second~~ fluid suction port and fluid communication is prevented therebetween.

4. (Original) A valve as recited in claim 1, further comprising a handle connected to the valve member to facilitate manipulation thereof.

5. (Currently amended) A valve as recited in claim 1, wherein the first opening is releasably lockable in alignment with the ~~first~~ fluid introduction port or the ~~second~~ fluid suction port.

6. (Currently amended) A valve as recited in claim 5, wherein the housing supports a depressible button that engages the valve member to release the first opening from alignment with the ~~first~~ fluid introduction port and the ~~second~~ fluid suction port.

7. (Previously presented) A valve as recited in claim 1, wherein the first port is configured for introduction of fluids into the first passageway.

8. (Currently amended) A valve as recited in claim 1, wherein the ~~first~~ fluid introduction port includes a normally closed valve.

9. (Previously presented) A valve as recited in claim 8, wherein the normally closed valve includes an elastically deformable septum having an elongate slit formed through a thickness of the septum.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) A valve as recited in claim 1, wherein the first passageway and a second passageway disposed within the housing fluidly communicate with a nasogastric tube.

12. (Currently amended) A valve as recited in claim 1, wherein the housing further includes a third port, ~~disposed adjacent the second end thereof~~, that fluidly communicates with the first passageway and connects to tubing that extends to the second opening and is supported thereby, the tubing being configured to facilitate fluid communication of the first passageway with the ~~first~~ fluid introduction port and the ~~second~~ fluid suction port.

13. (Currently amended) A valve as recited in claim 7, wherein the ~~second~~ fluid suction port is configured for removal of fluids from the first passageway.

14. (Currently amended) A valve as recited in claim 1, ~~wherein an outer surface of the housing provides visual indicia of a position of the first opening~~ further comprising visual indicia on the housing indicating that the valve is in a fluid introduction position in which the first opening is aligned with the fluid introduction port and a fluid suction position in which the first opening is aligned with the fluid suction port.

15. (Currently amended) A valve comprising:
a housing defining a first end, a second end and a longitudinal axis, the housing including a first passageway that extends therealong and a second passageway that includes a relief port, the housing including an introduction port and a suction port, each being disposed adjacent the first end, the housing further including an attachment port disposed adjacent the second end; ~~and~~
a valve member mounted for rotation within a cavity of the housing relative to the longitudinal axis, the valve member defining a portion of the first passageway that includes a first opening configured for alignment and sealed fluid communication with the introduction port, in a first position, and the suction port, in a second position, the portion of the first passageway further including a second opening having a greater

relative dimension than the first opening and being configured to establish continuous fluid communication with the first passageway, wherein the valve member is rotatable to establish sealed fluid communication between the first opening and the introduction port or the suction port while maintaining continuous sealed fluid communication between the second opening and the attachment port[[,]] ;

wherein said second passageway is separate from the first passageway such that said valve member is not movable to any position establishing fluid communication between said first and second passageways; and

wherein the second passageway is non-releasably fixed in relation to the introduction and suction ports on the housing.

16. (Original) A valve as recited in claim 15, wherein the valve member is rotatable to a third position such that the first opening is not aligned with the introduction port or the suction port and fluid communication is prevented therebetween.

17. (Currently amended) A valve system as recited in claim 16, ~~wherein an outer surface of the housing provides visual indicia of the position of the valve member~~ further comprising visual indicia on the housing indicating that the valve is in a fluid introduction position in which the first opening is aligned with the fluid introduction port and a fluid suction position in which the first opening is aligned with the fluid suction port.

18. (Original) A valve as recited in claim 16, wherein the valve member is releasably lockable in a position via a button, supported by the housing, that engages the valve member.

19. (Currently amended) A valve comprising:

a housing including a first end, a second end and a first passageway that extends therealong and a second passageway that includes a relief port, the housing further including a first port and a second port, said first and second ports being disposed adjacent the first end of the housing, the housing further including a third port, disposed

adjacent the second end of the housing, that fluidly communicates with the first passageway; and

a valve member disposed within the housing and movable relative thereto, the valve member defining a portion of the first passageway that includes a first opening configured for alignment and sealed fluid communication with the first port and the second port, the portion of the first passageway further including a second opening;

said first passageway being defined in part by flexible tubing fluidly connecting said second opening and said third port, said tubing being configured to flex in response to movement of as the valve member ~~moves~~ to establish sealed fluid communication between the first opening and the first port or the second port while maintaining continuous sealed fluid communication between the second opening and the third port via the tubing.

20. (Currently amended) A nasogastric valve system comprising:

a nasogastric tube including a fluid lumen and a vent lumen, the fluid lumen defining a first portion of a first passageway, the vent lumen defining a first portion of a second passageway, wherein the first passageway and the second passageway fluidly communicate adjacent a distal end of the nasogastric tube;

a housing defining a first end, a second end and a longitudinal axis, the housing including a second portion of the first passageway that extends therewithin and a second portion of the second passageway that extends therewithin and includes a relief port, the housing including an introduction port and a suction port, said introduction and suction ports being disposed adjacent the first end of the housing, the housing further including an attachment port disposed adjacent the second end of the housing for attachment of the nasogastric tube to the housing; ~~and~~

a valve member mounted for rotation within a cavity of the housing relative to the longitudinal axis, the valve member defining a portion of the first passageway that includes a first opening configured for alignment and sealed fluid communication with the introduction port, in a first position, and the suction port, in a second position, the portion of the first passageway further including a second opening having a greater relative dimension than the first opening and being configured to establish continuous

fluid communication with the first passageway, wherein the valve member is rotatable to establish sealed fluid communication between the first opening and the introduction port or the suction port while maintaining continuous sealed fluid communication between the second opening and the attachment port[[.]] ; and

an anti-reflux valve in the housing in fluid communication with the relief port, said anti-reflux valve being adapted to open to permit air to flow through the relief port when the first passageway and relief port are in communication with respective lumens of said nasogastric tube and suction is applied to the suction port; and

wherein said second portion of the second passageway is separate from the second portion of the first passageway such that said valve member is not movable to any position establishing fluid communication between said second portions of the first and second passageways.

21. (Currently amended) A valve system as recited in claim 4 ~~20~~, wherein the ~~first passageway has a singular configuration~~ housing comprises top and bottom clamshell sections assembled to enclose the valve member, and a handle disposed outside the housing for moving the valve member in the housing.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) A valve as recited in claim 4, wherein the handle is configured for one handed operation.

24. (Currently amended) A valve as recited in claim 5, wherein the valve member supports a button that is engageable therewith to release the first opening from alignment with the first fluid introduction port and the ~~second~~ fluid suction port.

25. (Currently amended) A valve as recited in claim 7, wherein the ~~second~~ fluid suction port is configured for removal and introduction of fluids.

26. (Original) A valve as recited in claim 15, wherein the position of the valve member is confirmed by a visual indicia including a mechanical detent.

27. (Original) A valve as recited in claim 11, further comprising an adapter disposed for connecting the valve with the nasogastric tube and providing a sealed fluid communication therebetween.

28. (Original) A valve as recited in claim 27, wherein the adapter includes a surface adjacent its periphery that bonds to an outer surface of the nasogastric tube to provide strain relief.

29. (Original) A valve as recited in claim 27, wherein the adapter has an outer surface configured for enhanced manipulation thereof.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) A valve as recited in claim 1 wherein the ~~first~~ fluid introduction and ~~second suction~~ ports are located adjacent the a first end of the housing and the relief port is located adjacent the a second end of the housing.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently amended) A valve as recited in claim ~~33~~ 1 wherein the housing further comprises an anti-reflux port defined by a membrane that is configured to permit passage of a cannula for communicating with the relief port.

35. (Previously presented) A valve as recited in claim 19 wherein said second passageway is separate from the first passageway such that said valve member is not

movable to any position establishing fluid communication between said first and second passageways.

36. (New) A valve as recited in claim 19 wherein the flexible tubing has one end received in the second opening and a second end received in the third port.

37. (New) A valve as set forth in claim 1 wherein the anti-reflux valve comprises an umbrella valve configured to open in response to suction applied to the suction port.

38. (New) A valve system as set forth in claim 20 wherein the anti-reflux valve comprises an umbrella valve configured to open in response to suction applied to the suction port.